

What is claimed is:

1. A method for measuring an indication of attributes of materials containing a fluid state, the method comprising the steps of:

5 providing a time-domain signal indicative of attributes of said materials in a single measurement;

constructing a time-domain averaged data train from said signal, the averaging being performed over one or more time intervals Δ_i ; and

10 computing an indication of attributes of said materials from the time-domain averaged data train.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein said one or more time intervals Δ_i are constant.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein at least two of said one or more time intervals Δ_i are different.

15 4. The method of claim 2 wherein the following expression is used to construct the time-domain averaged data train:

$$S_{\Delta}(t) = \int_t^{t+\Delta} dt' S(t') / \Delta$$

20 where $S_{\Delta}(t)$ is the provided time-domain signal.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the interval Δ_i is fixed and the time-domain averaged data train is constructed at times $t = t_0, t_0 + \Delta, t_0 + 2\Delta, \dots, t_0 + N\Delta$.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the time-domain signal is an NMR echo
25 train.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the step of computing an indication of attributes is performed using inversion of the constructed time-domain averaged data train into T_2 domain.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the T_2 distribution is estimated using the
30 following expression

$$S_{\Delta}(t) = \sum_{T_2} \phi(T_2) \exp(-t / T_2) (1 - \exp(-\Delta / T_2)) + Noise$$

where $\phi(T_2)$ is the porosity corresponding to the exponential decay time T_2 .

9. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of averaging two or more constructed time-domain averaged data trains to increase the signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) of the measurement.

5 10. A method for measuring an indication of attributes of materials containing a fluid state, comprising the steps of:

providing an NMR echo-train indicative of attributes of materials along the borehole;

10 constructing a time-domain averaged data train from said NMR echo train, the averaging being performed over one or more time intervals Δ_i ; and
computing an indication of attributes of said materials from the time-domain averaged data train.

11. The method of claim 10 wherein said one or more time intervals Δ_i are constant.

15 12. The method of claim 10 wherein at least two of said one or more time intervals Δ_i are different.

13. The method of claim 10 further comprising the step of averaging two or more constructed time-domain averaged data trains to increase the signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) of the measurement.

20 14. The method of claim 10 wherein the following expression is used to construct the time-domain averaged data train:

$$Echo_{\Delta}(t) = \int_t^{t+\Delta} dt' Echo(t') / \Delta$$

25 where $Echo_{\Delta}(t)$ is the provided time-domain signal over a time interval Δ_i .

15. The method of claim 10, wherein the time interval Δ_i is constant and the time-domain averaged data train is constructed at times $t = t_0, t_0 + \Delta, t_0 + 2\Delta, \dots, t_0 + N\Delta$.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the step of computing an indication of attributes is performed using inversion of the constructed time-domain averaged data train into T_2 domain.

30 17. The method of claim 16, wherein the T_2 distribution is estimated using the following expression

$$Echo_{\Delta}(t) = \sum_{T_2} \phi(T_2) \exp(-t / T_2) (1 - \exp(-\Delta / T_2)) + Noise$$

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where $\phi(T_2)$ is the porosity corresponding to the exponential decay time T_2 .

18. A method for increasing the spatial resolution of NMR logging measurements, comprising the steps of:

5 providing an NMR echo-train indicative of attributes of materials of interest; and
constructing a time-domain averaged data train from said NMR echo train, the averaging being performed over one or more time intervals Δ_i .

19. The method of claim 18 wherein said one or more time intervals Δ_i are constant.

10 20. The method of claim 18 wherein at least two of said one or more time intervals Δ_i are different.

21. The method of claim 18 further comprising the step of averaging two or more constructed time-domain averaged data trains to increase the signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) of the measurement.

15 22. The method of claim 18 wherein the following expression is used to construct the time-domain averaged data train:

$$Echo_{\Delta}(t) = \int_t^{t+\Delta} dt' Echo(t') / \Delta$$

20 where $Echo_{\Delta}(t)$ is the provided time-domain signal.

23. The method of claim 18 wherein the time interval Δ_i is constant and the time-domain averaged data train is constructed at times $t = t_0, t_0 + \Delta, t_0 + 2\Delta, \dots, t_0 + N\Delta$.

25 24. The method of claim 23, wherein the step of computing an indication of attributes is performed using inversion of the constructed time-domain averaged data train into T_2 domain.

25. The method of claim 24 wherein the T_2 distribution is estimated using the following expression

30 $Echo_{\Delta}(t) = \sum_{T_2} \phi(T_2) \exp(-t / T_2) (1 - \exp(-\Delta / T_2)) + Noise$

where $\phi(T_2)$ is the porosity corresponding to the exponential decay time T_2 .

26 A method for real-time processing of NMR logging signals, comprising the steps of:

providing real-time data corresponding to a single-event NMR echo train indicative of physical properties of materials of interest;

5 constructing a time-domain averaged data train from said NMR echo train, the averaging being performed over time interval Δ using the expression

$$S_{\Delta}(t) = \int_t^{t+\Delta} dt' S(t') / \Delta$$

10 where $S(t)$ is the provided measurement signal, and the time-domain averaged data train is constructed at times $t = t_0, t_0 + \Delta, t_0 + 2\Delta, \dots, t_0 + N\Delta$; and

computing in real time an indication of the physical properties of said materials based on the constructed time-domain averaged data train.

15 27. The method of claim 26, further comprising the step of

inverting of the constructed time-domain averaged data train into the T_2 domain, wherein the T_2 distribution is modeled using the expression

$$Echo_{\Delta}(t) = \sum_{T_2} \phi(T_2) \exp(-t / T_2) (1 - \exp(-\Delta / T_2)) + Noise$$

20 where $\phi(T_2)$ is the porosity corresponding to the exponential decay time T_2 .

28. The method of claim 26, further comprising the step of averaging two or more constructed time-domain averaged data trains to increase the signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) of the measurement.

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